
Higher Education Committee

HB 1654

Brief Description: Regarding tuition for excess credits at institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Representatives Zeiger, Sells, Haler, Miloscia, Buys, Dammeier, Johnson, Dahlquist, Fagan, Warnick, Smith, Anderson and Kelley.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires four-year public institutions of higher education and community and technical colleges that offer applied baccalaureate degrees to charge those resident students who exceed 125 percent of credits needed to obtain their degree at a non-resident or graduate tuition rate for credits that exceed 125 percent.
- Directs the Education Data Center at the Office of Financial Management to track the number of students that exceed 125 percent of credits needed to obtain their degree and report to the Legislature annually.

Hearing Date: 2/9/11

Staff: Madeleine Thompson (786-7304).

Background:

Current law (RCW 28B.10.695) permits institutions of higher education to charge a surcharge for excess credits when a student takes 125 percent or more of the credits needed to complete their degree.

In 2009-2010 public higher education institutions reported varying numbers of students who exceed 125 percent of credits needed to obtain their degree of between three percent and 12 percent. For the small number of students enrolling in applied baccalaureate degrees at community and technical colleges, the estimate is about eight percent of students who exceed 125 percent of the number of credits needed.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The permission granted to higher education institutions to charge a surcharge for excess credits is replaced with a requirement to charge at non-resident or graduate tuition rates. Four-year public institutions of higher education and community and technical colleges that offer applied baccalaureate degrees are required to charge those resident students who exceed 125 percent of credits needed to obtain their degree at a non-resident or graduate tuition rate for credits that exceed 125 percent.

The Education Data Center at the Office of Financial Management must track the number of students that exceed 125 percent of credits needed to obtain their degree and report to the Legislature annually.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.